

Appl. No. 10/656,564
Amtdt Dated Apr. 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,305,405 to Emmons et al.. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Emmons et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,612,780 to Rickenbach et al.. Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Emmons et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,043 to Rickenbach et al..

Regarding claim 1, a first of the two connectors defines a passage and terminates a first end of the optical fiber opposite to the passage. A second of the two connectors forms an illuminating member thereon and terminates a second end of the optical fiber. A predetermined distance is left between the illuminating member and the second end of the optical fiber. When a light beam shines through the passage of the first connector at a first end of the patch cable, the light travels through the optical fiber from a first end to a second end thereof. The light exiting from the second end of the optical fiber irradiates the illuminating member of the second connector at a second end of the patch cable.

However, what Emmons et al. disclose is different from the present invention in claim 1 at all. Referring to Column 6, Lines 21-26 and Fig. 19, an external light beam is directed by a chamfer 100 of a clip 80 into a ring 50. Light within ring 50 is directed by the reflective surfaces 60, 62 of the ring 50 into the fiber end 22a of the secondary fiber 22. The light passes through fiber 22 and is directed to a surface 66 of a second coupling 24'. The light is reflected by the reflective surfaces 60, 62 such that the light is then directed throughout the ring and illuminate the ring 50 for visually identifying (referring to Column 4, Lines 65-70).

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The coupling 24' including the ring 50 is a solid piece of light transparent plastic.

Therefore, although Emmons et al. disclose a traceable cable, the traceable cable has essentially different structure from the present invention to visually identify a second end of a cable. Emmons et al. do not disclose a passage defined in a first of the two connectors, an illuminating member formed on a second of the two connectors, and other associated structures disclosed by the present invention. More importantly, the traceable cable disclosed by Emmons et al. dose not need to adopt such structure. Emmons et al. would not teach a person skilled in the art to develop the present invention. Therefore, Claim 1 should be allowable.

Claims 2-9 should be allowable also as dependant claims of claim 1. Especially regarding claims 4-5, since the light is directed throughout the ring 50 and illuminate the ring 50, and the ring 50 is transparent in Emmons et al., no illuminating member is needed any more for Emmons et al.. Therefore, a person skilled in art would not combine U.S. Patent No. 5,305,405 to Emmons et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,612,780 to Rickenbach et al. together to develop the present invention as the invention was made.

Regarding claim 10, since Emmons et al. do not disclose or suggest a traceable cable which has a passage defined in a first of the two connectors, an illuminating member formed on a second of the two connectors, and other associated structures. Claim 10 is patentable over Emmons et al.. Accordingly, claims 11-14 are patentable also as dependant claims of claim 10.

Regarding claim 15, no passage is defined in a first of the two connectors of Emmons et al. for an external light beam shining through. No illuminating member is formed on a second of the two connectors of Emmons et al. for the light

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irradiating. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over Emmons et al.. Accordingly, claim 16 is patentable also as dependant claim of claim 10.

Claim 17 defines (I) one of the pair of connectors including the actuating device initiating an identification symbol, and (II) the identification symbol moving along the transmitting device and is able to be visually identified on the other one of the pair of connectors.

Nowhere in Emmons et al. disclose these two features. Especially, the LED is secured to the coupling (24/24') which the cable (12) extends through, rather than the connector (14/14') where the cable (12) terminates at the corresponding end thereof (column 6, line 50, and the cover figure).

Thus, claims 17-20 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references, and in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the subject application as claimed in the pending claims is in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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